



# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***IT'S A SWEEP AS TWO CALIFORNIA FIRMS EARN SBA NATIONAL MINORITY BUSINESS AWARDS***

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Aida Alvarez today announced that two California-based small businesses have been selected to receive the highest SBA honors given each year to minority business owners. The announcement comes at the start of Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week, an annual nationwide celebration of the accomplishments of minority entrepreneurs.

**"These are truly exciting times for minority business owners,"** said Administrator Alvarez. **"In business creation rates, the minority community leads the nation. And just last week, the Census Bureau confirmed that the United States' population is becoming increasingly diverse with each passing day.**

**"As a nation, we have much to celebrate during this year's Minority Enterprise Development Week and I am proud to acknowledge the individual accomplishments of these two outstanding minority-owned firms, Computer Consulting Operations Specialists of Culver City, Calif., and Agbayani Construction Corporation of San Francisco."**

Both of this year's winning small businesses benefited from the SBA's 8(a) business development program. This initiative, which is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, has helped more than 13,000 firms secure management and technical assistance, and federal contracts. It helps socially and economically disadvantaged American citizens gain access to the economic mainstream. Many of the more than 5,000 current 8(a) participants are minority-owned businesses.

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## **National 8(a) Minority Small Business Graduate of the Year**

Mary Ann Mitchell, *President*  
**Computer Consulting Operations Specialists (CC-OPS)**

Started in 1985 with only seven employees, CC-OPS was certified as an 8(a) program participant in 1988. Today, this \$4 million company employs over 200 and is one of the West Coast's premier information technology service providers. Ms. Mary Ann Mitchell has guided the company's development since its earliest days, which included securing non-8(a) sales in excess of \$10 million. The company left the 8(a) program in 1997.

The firm, which has satellite offices in San Diego, San Francisco, Memphis, Tenn., St. Louis and Washington, has a client portfolio that extends to both the public and private sectors. Some of the customers are the U.S. Departments of the Treasury and Agriculture, Department of the Navy, Federal Aviation Administration, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and Pacific Bell Directory.

Ms. Mitchell and the employees are determined to see the company grow into a \$100 million operation by 2005. To ensure that this growth benefits the widest number of individuals, the company president insists that minority suppliers and subcontractors be retained, as well as minority employees who share this vision for success.

## **National Minority Small Business Firm of the Year**

Vincent D. Agbayani, *President and Chief Executive Officer*  
**Agbayani Construction Corporation**

Vincent Agbayani first gained exposure to the construction trades as a laborer. But an unflinching quest for more challenging circumstances combined with total dedication to a night-school education led he and his wife, Maria, to begin Agbayani Construction Corporation in 1984.

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The company assets included a pickup truck, a set of hand tools and the Agbayanis' deep-seated feeling that an enterprise that valued the front-line worker could be successful. That approach paid off. Today, the company provides wages to 30 direct and 100 indirect employees and in 1998 posted annual sales of just under \$4 million. The firm not only provides general construction services, but property management and maintenance as well.

A current 8(a) participant, Agbayani Construction Corporation remodels and manages both commercial and industrial properties. It also provides similar services to military housing and serves as a 24-hour maintenance provider to airports and hospitals.

As both a business and community leader, Mr. Agbayani supports many charitable community projects. In 1997, the company donated its services to remodel the Rosalee House for Battered Women and, in 1998, rebuilt the Home for Homeless Children. Mr. Agbayani currently serves as a San Francisco city commissioner and, since 1996, has held the position of Chairman of the Board for Mission National Bank, the largest minority-owned National Bank in Northern California. He is also president of the 8(a) Association of Northern California, an advocacy group.

The actual presentation of the awards is scheduled for Wednesday evening during a gala held in conjunction with the MED Week national conference in Washington, DC. The conference began Sunday, Sept. 19, runs for four days, and features workshops, seminars and a trade show.

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*(See attached for full listing of SBA Regional Winners)*

*SBA Regional Minority Small Business Firms of the Year, 1999*

REGION I –

Diversified Technology  
Consultants

Dr. Murali Atluru, President  
North Haven, Conn.

REGION II –

Imperial Construction and Electric,  
Inc.

Mr. Frank Dominguez, President  
Hillside, N.J.

REGION III –

Integrated Management Services,  
Inc.

Ms. D. Jean Wu, President  
Woodbridge, Va.

REGION IV –

S&W International Food  
Specialties, Inc.

Mr. Jason Slaughter, President  
Forest Park, Ga.

REGION V –

Horizon Environmental Group, Inc.

Mr. R. Daniel Eapen, President  
Cincinnati, Ohio

REGION VI –

A/P Resources

Mr. Alex Guerra, President  
San Antonio, Texas

REGION VII –

Rodriguez Mechanical Contractors,  
Inc.

Mr. Paul Rodriguez, President  
Kansas City, Kan.

REGION VIII –

Big Horn Bolt & Anchor, Inc.

Mr. Jeff J. Hawk, President  
Billings, Mont.

REGION IX – **(National Winner)**

Agbayani Construction Corp.

Mr. Vincent D. Agbayani,  
President  
San Francisco, Calif.

REGION X –

Ebony Iron Works, Inc.

Mr. Edward Holmes, President  
Portland, Ore.

